

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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**DRAFT**

**SFM FIRE EXTINGUISHER ADISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
AUGUST 23, 2005
SO CAL EDISON, IRWINDALE, CA**

Members Present:

James Parsegian, Program Coordinator
Mike Brand, Brandco
Randy Dysart, Beacon Fire
Jesse Franco, L.A. City Fire Department
Bob Gebel, City of Torrance, Fire Prevention
Chris Gilbert, Simplex Grinnell
Darrell Harguth, Brooks Equipment
Darrell Hefley, Jorgensen & Co.
Brian Heyman, So Cal Edison
Randall Metz, Orange County Fire Authority
Edie Wade, Brooks Equipment, Calsafe
Thomas Wiley, CSG Consultants

Members Absent:

Mike Winfield, Folsom State Prison
Leonard Franco, Merced Fire Dept (Resigned)
Chris Hoiland
Kent Miller, Stockton Fire Department
Martin Von Raesfeld, Santa Clara Fire Department

Guests:

Andre James, Pasadena Fire Department
Sandie Hastings, Torrance Fire Department
Robert Nolan, Brea Fire Department

Introductions: Self introductions were made. James thanked Brian Heyman for arranging the So Cal Edison meeting location and for their hospitality.

Agenda: James went over the agenda for August 23rd, explaining that Chairperson Mike Richwine was not able to attend.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the meeting dated April 25, 2005 were reviewed and approved as written.

Old Business: Regulation Status

James indicated that Dan Najera was unable to be present at this meeting. James went over the process that is involved in sending the Regulation Package through channels. He indicated that he had sent the package for management review and received no comment back on the package, as yet. If no comment, the package will be completed and sent to the SFM and if approved will move on to OAL, public comment, etc.

James then asked Christine Gilbert, chair of the FE Workgroup, to explain the 3 regulations still remaining with the Fire Extinguisher workgroup that were not completed in time for submission with the Regulation Package. These three regulations consisted of section 595.14- Mobile Service Vehicles, changes to section 574.1 – 574.6, 575.4 to include Electronic Monitoring and (Test & Performance Standards). The first two regulations are near completion with the FE workgroup, awaiting approval of updated language. Several new committee members at this meeting requested input regarding these two regulations and were asked to join the workgroup. Chris will contact all new workgroup members as to the date of the next conference call to discuss the proposed wording changes/additions to these regulations. The Test & Performance standards is scheduled for review by the Training Work Group. This group has not yet met due to the unavailability of a representative from the Prison system to participate. New members at this meeting requested to be able to participate on this workgroup. Mike Brand, chair of this workgroup will set up a meeting and/or conference call for the workgroup to begin work on testing and training.

New Business:

Code Adoptions: Chief Grijalva sent a letter via LA Fire Marshal website on how system would work and asking for volunteers. There are several levels of amendments:

- a. Statutory Requirements (R2/R6), which will go in code
- b. Fire & Life Safety issues serious enough to require amendment by code
- c. New Amendments (ex: UL300- stakeholders, hotel, restaurants, schools, Calsafe, installers –developed a set of expressed terms to go in current building code)

Regulations Update:

Christine explained the work process of the Fire Extinguisher workgroup and where they stood period to date on the assigned regulations review. (See “Old Business” above) The process of how the regulations are reviewed and the level of approvals that they travel through before they are out for public comment were discussed.

Action Item: It was requested that James provide a flow chart to all committee members on how the regulation work/approval process flows and a timeline of the process.

- a. **Mobile Service Vehicles:** Reviewed existing proposed language from workgroup. New members suggested several options: Would like to have wording added: “per manufacturers recommendations” and James explained how current regulations cover this already. James talked about how SFM rep inspects facility and service vehicle before a license is issued...includes insurance, drivers license, equipment in facility and vehicle. Talked about UL rated and UL listed parts and how many extinguisher parts that are not manufacturer’s parts, are still UL listed as approved for use in that manufacturer’s extinguisher. It was suggested that wording be added to the current proposed language to read “ or local Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)”, at the end of the sentence. This would allow the local AHJ the further ability to inspect mobile service vehicles. Motion to make this change was made and passed. All but one committee member in favor of this new language addition.

It was suggested that the SFM’s office provide a checklist for minimum service equipment and that wording be added to 595.4“ as per the current recommended equipment list provided by the CSFM . A motion was made and all approved this change. This regulation will be returned to the Work Group for final wording revision via conference call. Several new Advisory Committee members requested participation on this Work Group committee. A sign-up list was sent around and Christine will add new members to conference call list.

Action Item: Training for AHJ’s on extinguisher use, inspection, maintenance, service

- b. **Test & Performance Standard:** Work Group has not met yet. Discussed areas this committee will work on as follows: Licensing of new technicians, suggested remote testing facilities, computerized testing options and on-line training options. Also discussed the necessity of providing on-going training for AHJ’s options on how to achieve this. New Advisory committee members requested participation on this Work Group, which is chaired by Mike Brand and a sign up sheet was sent around the room. A meeting and/or conference call of this workgroup will be conducted in the near future.

c. Electronic Monitoring: Christine went over the draft language that included specifications on Electronic Monitoring. Darrell Harguth talked about how electronic monitoring works, how a Special Gauge sends a signal if out of the “ready” area. Also send an electronic signal if blocked, removed or gauge is not operable. It was suggested that language be changed from “manually inspected every 30 days” to “monthly”. It was discussed whether the language in section A is necessary and it was explained That this was “draft” language that was taken from NFPA and can be revised as necessary. It was agreed that this new regulation wording would be sent back to the workgroup for further review.

A new committee member suggested that the regulation regarding elimination of the Internal Maintenance Tag be re-viewed. Also, suggested changes to Annual Maintenance and exempt licensing were brought up. James requested that any suggested wording changes to either old or new regulations, be put into writing and submitted to the OFSM. The date for the next FE workgroup conference call was set for Sept 19th at 1:00p.m. Christine will send information and attachments to all workgroup

Web Page Update

James went over the changes to the OSFM web page that is currently in process. New to the website will be a link where a consumer can print out a complaint form on-line to submit to the OSFM. The Fire Extinguisher Study Guide will remain unchanged except for the addition of the section regarding suspensions. The Fire Extinguisher and Automatic System Advisory Committee Information will be available on the website. In the future there will be link to the letter for non-UL rated extinguishers manufacturers and distributors and other forms and bulletins.

Top Five Priority

James indicated that SFM Grijalva has requested that the FE Advisory Committee work together and develop a listing of five top priority items that the committee agrees are of significant importance to work on during the coming year. The committee suggested a number of topics but the five that were finally chosen in order or priority were as follows:

1. Regulation Process – Review and Revise as needed
2. Continuing Education – Training: AHJ training, testing of C of R holders, testing sites
3. Enforcement – Regulation enforcement for C of R holders, AHJ's, stakeholders, spot inspections of concerns
4. Broader Stakeholder/Group participation (OSHA, insurance companies, etc)
5. Incentive / Exemption from Annual Maintenance for Fire Extinguishers

James will e-mail this list to all committee members and is requesting that all members respond by September 19th, with a simple one page justification as to why each member considers the above list as the top five priority items for the committee to focus on.

Open Forum:

James discussed enforcement and the 3 suspension / fines incorporated for 3 companies (Sacramento, L.A., and Modesto) and the company where a hearing will be conducted (Auburn). James indicated that there are approximately 12 -15 active cases currently under investigation by the OSFM and this enforcement issue is an on-going concern with their office.

Next Meeting:

The date of the next Fire Extinguisher Advisory Committee was set for November 15th, at 10:00 a.m. at the OSFM in Sacramento.

James Parsegian adjourned the meeting at 2:10 P.M.

Submitted by: Edie Wade